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November 4, 2003

TO: Mr. Russell Hart, RPM
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

FROM: Mr. David Curnock, PM, SECOR International Inc. 

RE: **MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT/MEMORANDUM**
Area 9/10 Remedial Design
Southeast Rockford Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site
Rockford, Illinois

Copies: Mr. Thomas Turner, Regional Counsel, USEPA Region V
Mr. Scott Moyer, Hamilton Sundstrand/United Technologies Corporation
Ms. Kathleen McFadden, United Technologies Corporation
Mr. Thomas Williams, PM, IEPA
Mr. Terry Ayers, IEPA

CURRENT MONTH PROJECT ISSUES/STATUS: *(activities, meetings, deliverables, etc.)*

Based on approvals from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the pre-design field investigation and pilot testing field activities began in October. Field sampling activities began on October 20, 2003.

The City of Rockford issued right-of-way permits for the installation of two monitoring wells to be located in the southern portion of the right-of-way on 23rd Avenue. Monitoring wells SMW-1 and SMW-2 were installed under these permits. Monitoring well SMW-3, which was also to be located in the right-of-way of 23rd Avenue, was not installed due to an existing monitoring well already present in the proposed location. Access to this well was discussed with the City of Rockford. This existing well was accessed and found to be suitable for the purposes of the pre-design investigation. The screened interval was consistent with that of the proposed SMW-3 which was not installed. This existing well has been designated as SMW-3X for the purposes of this study.

Additional shallow (water table) monitoring wells have been installed on the Hamilton Sundstrand facility. These wells include SMW-4, SMW-5, SMW-8 and SMW-15. All of these wells are approximately 40 to 42 feet deep and have been constructed with 15 feet of stainless steel well screen such that approximately five feet of screen is above the static water level and 10 feet lies below the static water level. Groundwater in the area is generally found between 30 and 33 feet below surface grade.

Monitoring well SMW-4 was relocated onto the Hamilton Sundstrand facility from the right-of-way of 9th Street. Due to access issues and underground encumbrances, the original proposed

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT/MEMORANDUM**Area 9/10 Remedial Design****Southeast Rockford Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site****Rockford, Illinois****November 4, 2003****Page 2**

location of this well was not possible. The well location lies north and east of the proposed location, in an alcove area on the plant property. Monitoring well SMW-8 was also relocated due to utility obstruction. This monitoring well was moved approximately 10 feet to the south of its proposed location and is located in the driveway on the west end of the plant. The other monitoring wells installed (SMW-1, SMW-2, SMW-5, SMW-15) were all placed in the locations as proposed. No indications of impacted soil or groundwater conditions were identified from field observations (odors, staining, and photoionization detector readings from field headspace analysis) from any of the monitoring wells installed.

As discussed with Mr. Russ Hart, USEPA, soil boring and soil sampling activities were conducted using direct push drilling equipment where possible and practical to reduce drilling spoils. A Geoprobe dual-tube sampling system was employed to advance sampling equipment to collect continuous soil samples. An outer casing (tube) was advanced along with the inner sampling core barrel. The inner sampling core was retrieved with the sample and the outer tube was left in place. A new sampling core was inserted and then both the outer tube and inner sampling core barrel were advanced to collect the next interval. This mode of sampling was very effective for those soil samples to be collected above the water table.

Soil borings S-1 through S-8 were advanced in the Outdoor Container Storage Area (OSA) in the locations as proposed. These locations were sampled continuously for laboratory analysis. Approximately 125 soil samples were submitted for VOC, DRO, and RCRA metals analysis from these locations. Some indications of near surface impacts were observed in some of the soil borings advanced in the OSA. These field indications consisted of slight odors, darkened soils, and some elevated headspace readings. These potential impacts were noted in the near surface soils (surface to six feet below grade). The near surface soils contained some fine grained particles (silts and clays). As depth increased, the soils were predominantly sand. A silty layer within the sand was identified in the soil borings in the OSA between approximately 19 feet and 21 feet. Although present in each of the eight borings, the thickness of the layer varied from a few inches to a foot. There were no indications of any separate phase materials or contaminant concentrations associated with this silty lens.

Soil borings S-9 through S-14 were advanced in the Loading Dock Area (LDA) in the locations as proposed. Soil boring S-10 was not completed to its terminal depth (to the water table, approximately 33 feet below grade) due to an obstruction at 12 feet below surface. After attempting to penetrate the obstruction (thought to be concrete from former underground storage tank emplacements) with the direct push equipment, it was determined that the location will be drilled and sampled using hollow stemmed augers and split spoons. There were no significant field observations noted indicating the presence of soil impacts at these locations.

General soil profile conditions as determined by the drilling and soil sampling performed to date indicate a near surface mantle of a dark brown sandy silt underlain by brown sand with very few pebbles or gravel sized particles. Soils below the water table (approximately 30 to 33 feet below grade) continue with the brown sand to 45 feet below grade (maximum depth explored to date). These conditions are consistent with those reported by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) from previous remedial investigation efforts.

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT/MEMORANDUM**Area 9/10 Remedial Design****Southeast Rockford Groundwater Contamination Superfund Site****Rockford, Illinois****November 4, 2003****Page 3**

Access issues have been negotiated to resolve for the property known as the Rockford Products parking lot located along 9th Street, south of the Hamilton Sundstrand facility. It is anticipated that remote sensing survey efforts (ground penetrating radar and electromagnetic survey) will commence in early November based on the negotiated access.

Access to the property along 11th Street to the south of the Hamilton Sundstrand facility (2525 11th Street) formerly occupied by Nylint and currently owned by DRB Buildings, has not been secured as of yet. Based on conversations and meeting with the property owner, Mr. Dick Wickstrand, access seems obtainable. However, based on the fact that access has not been granted at this time, a request will likely be made for assistance from USEPA in this matter if no progress is made in the next few days. Mr. Russ Hart will be contacted by SECOR, on behalf of Hamilton Sundstrand, to discuss this issue further.

FUTURE PROJECT ISSUES/STATUS: *(activities, meetings, deliverables, etc.)*

The field work (pre-design investigation and pilot testing) is proceeding.

SAMPLE/TEST DATA SUBMITTALS:

No submittals are included with this monthly progress report/memorandum. Based on samples collected in late October 2003, some raw laboratory data will be included in the next monthly progress memorandum.

RD SCHEDULE UPDATE: *(attach updated schedule as necessary)*

The field sampling activities associated with the pre-design investigation began during the week of October 20, 2003. Based on continued progress and resolution of access conditions, field sampling and field pilot testing activities should be completed by the end of December 2003.

REALIZED/ANTICIPATED PROBLEM CONDITIONS:

Access to 2525 11th Street has been slow in coming. The USEPA may be asked to assist Hamilton Sundstrand in securing access to this property.

PERSONNEL CHANGES:

Ms. Kathleen McFadden has assumed the legal contact role for Hamilton Sundstrand. Ms. McFadden is assuming the role previously filled by Mr. Eric Alletzhauser. Ms. McFadden's mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address are provided below.

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